



No. 437 - August 17, 1973

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KYODAN COMPLETES STUDY ON DANGERS OF "EMPEROR SYSTEM PSYCHOLOGY"

The Social Concerns Committee of the Kyodan has completed a two-years study seminar on the Emperor system in which it concluded that the central struggle of Christians in Japan must be to stop "an all-out reactionary direction" indicated by a growing "Emperor system psychology."

The 30 seminar participants from various districts of the Kyodan met in Hakone July 19-20. Lectures and discussion were followed by a summarization of findings during the two years study. The summarization stated that, although the Emperor system was supposed to have been discarded after the defeat in World War II, the Japanese mentality is still the breeding ground for a new style of "Tennosei" which can be found in the proposed Yasukuni Shrine and Alien Immigration bills and in discrimination against minority groups.

The seminar's conclusions are based on a wealth of information and research. Four series of handbooks, based on the Kyodan study, had previously been distributed to the participants; in addition, five lecturers presented the following papers: "The Emperor System and the Korean", by Rev. Shigehiko Taguchi of Iwakuni East Church; "The Emperor System Seminar and Me", by Machiko Hatta, a member of Taura Church; "The Christian and the Emperor System," by Rev. Hisashi Kajiwara of Owari Ichinomiya Church; "Japan Evangelism and the Emperor System," by Takeshi Mine of the Hirosaki Gakuin University Religion Department; and "Smashing Our Illusions of the Emperor System," by Rev. Takafumi Ogata of Funakoshi Church.

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Subscription rates: Japan

¥1,000; OVERSEAS Airmail \$7.00; Seomail \$5.00; SINGLE COPY ¥30

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Following is a summary of the seminar's findings:

"We realize that the most fundamental task for us in Japan is to pursue the confession that 'JESUS IS LORD'. Even today in Japanese society there exists a deep rooted movement to have the 'Emperor system psychology' function to give the Emperor transcendent authority. With this 'psychology' as the basis there is not only the move afoot to re-strengthen this system through political and social structures but also it is a fact that attempts are being made to reorganize Japanese society in an all-out reactionary direction. It is necessary, therefore, to put this as the central object of our struggle.

"We face now especially the proposed Yasukuni Shrine bill as the most important issue. Because the Yasukuni Shrine plays the exceedingly dangerous role of inserting into the people of Japan thought based on Shinto doctrine that the Emperor is the absolute ruler since he is the Divine head-father of all Japanese households and is a lineal descendant of the ancestor God, and because it also plays hand in hand with the militaristic thought of war as 'the honorable death place', this is indeed a serious issue for us.

"The plan to nationalize the Yasukuni Shrine again through the proposed Yasukuni Shrine bill connects the Emperor directly with the rapid strengthening of the Japan Self Defense Forces. This is evidence of the political line of the Liberal Democratic Party's desire to elevate the power of both the Emperor and the military over the Japanese people. We resolve to struggle to the end to defeat this bill.

"The Alien Immigration bill is also, for the same reason, an important issue. Because of the aggressiveness of the Emperor system and militarism of Japan, at one time many Koreans had to leave their Motherland and reside in Japan. Because of the exclusive nature of the Japanese family which is based on the Emperor being the Father of (the head of) all the families in Japan, the foreigners in Japan, especially the Koreans residing in Japan, have been shut out of Japanese society, discriminated against because they were outside the pale of the Emperor's "Destined Community". Now, as seen in the proposed bill, there is an attempt being made to take a turn for the worse towards further discrimination.

"We take it for granted that it is our responsibility to oppose the passage of this bill which ignores the human rights of aliens in Japan, since it is another evidence of the appearance of the excluding character of state power.

"Of course, it is not enough to try to stop the attempts to reorganize according to the Emperor system. The reason that *Tennosei* is a problem is because it involves the raising of an individual like the Emperor to top position in social authority. This is closely related to discrimination against the weak. It is most important for us to struggle against *Tennosei* by putting our best efforts into scooping out and dissolving the existence of discrimination in our society which exists against such minority groups as the *Mikaiho Buraku* (Outcaste group), the Okinawans and the Ainu and contributes to the sickness of Japanese society.

"Since such struggle against the Emperor System is inevitable for the realization of the Confession of Faith in Japan today, it is natural that this task be the task of all the churches in Japan. The Confession of War Guilt issued by the Kyodan in 1968 was one expression of such consciousness. We must work towards the building-up of churches which will boldly struggle against the Emperor system while rebuilding the Kyodan."

JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION (REMMEI) HOLDS 27TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

On July 25-27, 221 delegates from 124 churches of the Japan Baptist Convention assembled for their 27th Annual Convention at Amagisanso. Last year the convention decided to actualize self-reliance and self-support. This year the main purpose was to actualize this decision.

At the convention the activity plan for 1974, the budget and the decision to achieve self-support by 1977 were decided. A statement of opposition to the Yasukuni Shrine Bill as it relates to the Asian situation was issued. In addition a Special Committee on pollution was established sparked by a proposal of the Himeji Josai Church to set up a committee on the Morinaga Company pollution issue.

The highly controversial bill to nationalize Yasukuni Shrine appears to be approaching a showdown in the Diet, prompting increased activity by opposition forces including the NCC Yasukuni Shrine Bill Committee.

Executive members of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives announced on July 18 that the bill was going to the floor of the House. Opposition forces, in four previous Diet sessions, managed to block the bill's being reported out of the committee and on to the floor. This meant that the bill died in committee when each of those sessions ended.

However, with the bill now on the floor of the House, even if the current session fails to act on the bill, it will be given agenda priority for discussion at the next session of the Diet.

The shift suggests that Liberal Democratic Party leaders have increasing confidence in their ability to thwart the opposition and push the bill through. Church leaders feel that nationalization of the shrine, dedicated to Japan's war dead, has serious ramifications for the future of Japan's political life.

The current 71st Diet, which began in September, 1972, has been extended two times and is now expected to end on September 27. Inter-party feuds have interrupted Diet deliberations on several occasions, most recently when the LDP arbitrarily decided on the second extension.

The NCC Yasukuni Shrine Bill Committee is now waiting for the normalization of the Diet. Since it will be easy to call for a vote on the bill once it has received discussion, the committee is making thorough preparations for their continuing struggle to strengthen the opposition voice against this bill. The following is a list of some of the activities scheduled:

- August 15 - After the Annual Peace Prayer Meeting the committee with others will divide into three groups to distribute leaflets on the Yasukuni Shrine Bill
- August 18 - Monthly Demonstration from Ueno to Kudan
- August 21 - National Mobilization of the Christian Churches: approximately 150-200 leaders will come to Tokyo to go to the Diet to address Diet members on the Yasukuni issue.
- August 22 - Sit-in by leaders of the Yasukuni national mobilization group at Sukiwabashi (near Ginza) for one week, beginning when discussion on the bill begins in the Diet.
In addition to Sukiwabashi, sit-ins will be held at other locations throughout Japan.

AVACO TRAINING SEMINAR ATTRACTS 637 PARTICIPANTS

The Commission on Audio-Visual Education of the NCC sponsored its 24th annual Summer Training Seminar at Atami July 26-29. A total of 637 participants from all parts of Japan were exposed to the broad spectrum of Japan's audio-visual education.

Topics for seminar groups included Christian art, Christian music, group dynamics, printing and child guidance. Clergy and laymen from 34 different churches and denominations participated in a Communion Service on the final day. The offering, totalling ¥198,804, was given to the NCC Service Division Fund Campaign for Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Indochina.

"SAMAZAMA NA KATARIKAKE" is a 64-page booklet on the Ninth Annual NCC-sponsored National Urban-Industrial Mission Conference held at Osaka in February, 1973. The report (in Japanese) is a valuable look at Christians in action as experienced by the conference participants. Price: ¥250. Order from Stan Manierre at the NCC office. While you are at it order a copy or two for your pastor or other co-workers who would like to know what is actually being done concerning the ministry to human need in the Kansai area.

Also available are copies of the 7th and 8th NCCJ National Urban Industrial Mission Conferences held at Kita Kyushu and Gotemba - ¥200 each, while they last.

Because of harsh new measures taken by the South Korean government against certain church leaders, including the Rev. Hyong Kyu Park who was arrested on June 29 (JCAN, July 20), the NCCs of Japan and the U.S.A. sent a delegation to Seoul August 1-3. The delegation--Profs. Yoshiaki Iisaka and Masao Takenaka and the Revs. Edwin Luidens and George Todd--were followed throughout their visit by about 20 unidentifiable Koreans.

The four had consultations with church leaders, met family members of arrested Christians, attended special prayer meetings, and talked with various officials. The following is a summary of their findings:

Christians and churches in Korea are firmly united in their effort to get the release of their colleagues. Korean NCC has established an official investigating committee on this case. Church papers are reporting quite openly what is taking place. Prominent church leaders including Kwan Suk Kim, NCC general secretary, Dr. Kyong Shik Han of Yong Nak Presbyterian Church and Dr. Rak Chun Paik of Yonsei University made a visit to Prime Minister Jyong Pil Kim on August 1 and received his word that there would be "an early solution." Students organized a series of continuous over-night prayer meetings at The First Presbyterian Church in Seoul July 22-29. Church Women United sent a petition to President Park. Public opinion to support this action for the release is growing daily. In the meantime 11 out of 15 persons arrested have been released after 20 days of detention. Among them were five members of the Korean Student Christian Federation. They are one in witnessing that the bitter experiences have made them stronger in their Christian conviction. The four still in detention, including Mr. Park, are awaiting their trials. In the prison Mr. Park is reported to be singing hymns, praying aloud, and reciting Paul's letters from prison.

The Far Eastern Economic Review interpreted the incident of Parks imprisonment as relating to his leadership in organizing the oppressed people in Seoul's slum area to protect their human rights. According to the *Review*, this irritated the authorities. Some other people see in this case of the arrests of Christians, the intention of the authorities to try to divide the Christian opinion by creating the impression that some Christians are engaged in political activities by associating themselves with anti-governmental political party. Whatever the authorities' intention, the Korean churches feel that this is only the beginning. They expect more pressure in the future, and they are determined to stand for their Christian cause no matter how severe their fate will be.

Prime Minister Tanaka and President Nixon, in their joint communique last week, said that both governments are prepared to make "contributions toward the promotion of peace and security in the Korean Peninsula." However, because of Japanese and American support for President Park's "stable regime," these words suggest little sympathy with attempts of the NCCs of Japan and USA to promote peace and security of the life of the church in Korea.

The Korean Christians need continuous prayer and support from the international Christian community. Due to several reasons, including the fact that all contributors are traced by the authorities, it is difficult for Korean Christians to raise funds for their legal defense and for the support of their families. All Japanese participants of the Korea-Japan Church Consultation held in Soul July 2-5 (JCAN, July 20) and others are organizing a support group in Japan. Monetary contribution can be sent to them c/o NCCJ (see page 1 for address).

SHINICHI YOSHIDA NEW TERRITORIAL COMMANDER OF JAPAN SALVATION ARMY

Commissioner Shin'ichi Yoshida was installed as the new territorial commander of Japan Territorial Headquarters of the Salvation Army at Evangeline Hall in Tokyo on July 20. He succeeds Lieutenant Commissioner Donald Smith, who served for three years and now has a new assignment as the commander in Denmark. Graduated in 1937 from the Salvation Army Training College, Yoshida has served as the division commander of Kyushu, Chugoku and Hokkaido. After serving as the principal of Training College in 1966-71, he became Chief Secretary of the Japan Headquarters in 1971. He is 63. At the installation service, the new commander vigorously appealed to about 300 participants concerning the importance of prayer and the spirit of revival. In response, about 20 young people came to the Mercy Seat and knelt for prayer and spiritual guidance.

SOUTH KOREA: JAPANESE INVESTMENT REPLACES VIETNAM WAR INCOME

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In the first seven months of 1973, a dramatic shift took place in the south Korean economy, with massive Japanese investment beginning to replace the hundreds of millions of dollars earned from the Vietnam War.

Since the January ceasefire in Vietnam, Japanese capitalists have invested approximately \$200 million dollars in South Korea, nearly double the amount for all of 1972. Most of the investment, according to the Kyodan Koho Center, has been in chemical and heavy industries and in burgeoning Japanese tourist facilities.

The investments are key to the stability and continued growth of the South Korean economy, and are helping to off-set the loss of income from the ceasefire agreement in Vietnam. Since 1965, South Korea earned \$926.3 million in foreign exchange from the war. Approximately half of the income was from U.S. payment for the 308,000 South Korean mercenaries who fought in Vietnam. The rest came from civilian workers, contracts and trade related to the prosecution of the war against the Vietnamese people.

The loss of the war income has prompted the Pak Chung Hee regime to turn to two sources of funds: increased Japanese capital and continued U.S. military presence and U.S. military and economic aid. (During the same Vietnam war years, South Korea earned foreign exchange totalling \$1,138 million from the U.S. military in Korea, surpassing earnings from the war. The combined total payments from the U.S. military provided South Korea with 30 per cent of its total foreign exchange earnings between 1966 and 1969, decreasing to less than 10 per cent this year.)

The Japanese response has been even more enthusiastic than the American (where Congress is attempting to cut Nixon's aid to South Korea). Showing little restraint, the Japanese investors are turning to Korea for its cheap labor, stable and receptive government, and high profit margins.

Other factors behind the massive influx of Japanese capital are (1) the feeling that South Korea is increasingly a responsibility of Japan, according to U.S. design under the Nixon Doctrine; (2) Japanese hotels want to maximize benefits from the 30 per cent annual increases in Japanese tourists visiting Korea; and (3) Japanese government policy to "cushion the economic blows suffered by South Korea as a result of the Vietnam ceasefire."

Previous Japanese investment, particularly in tourist hotels, is already providing huge profits to both the investors and to the South Korean government. In the first half of 1973, South Korea chalked up a \$200 million surplus in invisible trade, mostly from tourists, which helped to offset a visible trade deficit of \$308 million.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT OF THE FIRST KOREA-JAPAN CHURCH CONSULTATION held July 2-5, 1973 in Seoul by Korean and Japanese NCCs is now available at the NCC Office. The 9-page statement costs 100 yen (plus postage) a copy.

JAPANESE THEOLOGIAN'S LECTURESHIPS IN USA

Two Japanese theologians are to lecture at two seminaries in the U.S.A. for the fall term. Prof. Yoshinobu Kumazawa of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary has been invited by Union Theological Seminary in New York as Henry Luce Visiting Professor. He will give lectures on theology in Japan. Prof. Masao Takenaka of the School of Theology, Doshisha University, will lecture on Sociology of Religion at the Divinity School of Yale University.

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MAGSAYSAY FOUNDATION JOURNALISM AND LITERATURE PRIZE GOES TO WOMAN POLLUTION FIGHTER. Mrs. Michiko Ishimure, writer and poet, is this years recipient of the Magsaysay Foundation award for her work in literature and the creative arts in relation to the struggle of the victims of the infamous Minamata Disease. As crusader against the dehumanization of rampant industrialization, she produced many literary pieces, among them works sensitively portraying the voice of the victims of the mercury poisoning in Minamata city.

Mrs. Ishimure will be in Manila on the 31st of August, the birthday of the late president Magsaysay, to receive the award bestowed on her by the foundation. Mrs. Ishimure was cited for acting as the voice of her people in their struggle against industrial pollution that has been distorting and destroying their lives.

KIM DAE JUNG KIDNAPPED: The exiled leading political opponent of President Park's regime in South Korea was abducted from his hotel room in Tokyo and forcibly taken to South Korea on Aug. 8 of this year. There is much speculation as to why and how it happened--and whether it was a kidnapping masterminded by dictator Park Chung Hee's CIA. The Japanese National Police Agency is still baffled by Kim's kidnapping. Japanese reaction has been limited to astonishment that such a thing could happen in what has been popularly thought to be one of the safest cities in the world.

FISHERMEN BLOCKADE TOKYO BAY: The port facilities of three chemical companies that have been polluting the aquatic environment of Tokyo Bay with mercury were blockaded by 100 fishing boats belonging to the 32 Unions of the Tokyo Bay Fishermans' Association with the intention of cutting off the lifeline of raw materials to the companies until compensation terms were met. The blockade was started on August 8th, and on August 12th the companies gave in and met the demands of the fishing cooperative. The fishermen argued in their demands that the fish taken from Tokyo Bay are so badly polluted with various heavy metals, especially mercury, that they are no longer sellable on the open market.

TWO COMMON POLLUTANTS IN JAPANESE ENVIRONMENT ARE FOUND TO BE CANCER PRODUCING IN COMBINATION. An announcement coming from the Nara Prefectural Medical School Cancer Research Center indicates that two very common pollutants in the Japanese human environment, when brought into combination, produce very powerful carcinogenic agents. The two cited compounds are PCB and BHC. PCB has been used in hundreds of industrial applications and BHC is used in pesticides. Although both compounds have been banned for use in Japan, the natural environment is already heavily polluted with both of them.

VICTIMS PRAY AGAIN IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: 40,000 Victims and Victims' Families Gathered in Hiroshima on August 6th to Observe the 28th Anniversary of the atomic bomb attack. On August 9th the same observance was held in Nagasaki. The call was for ridding the world of atomic weapons as a first step toward establishing lasting peace on earth. The peace gatherings were marred by political fighting between Socialist and Communist parties over leadership of the anti-A-bomb movement in Japan.

THE POLITICAL POSITION OF THE EMPEROR: On May 26 Defense Agency chief Keikichi Masuhara reported to the press that after reporting on Japanese defense forces in relation to the military forces of neighbor countries, the Emperor advised him to learn from the good points of the old (Imperial) Army. The defense chief added this was a great encouragement from His Majesty just before deliberation of the defence force situation in the National Diet session. In response to this, Japan's opposition parties charged that the Government was trying to use the Emperor politically to gain popular approval for a controversial personnel build-up of the Self